

1. Project Name

Alpine Meadows Consolidated Defensible Space Project

2. Project Summary

The project being proposed by Alpine Springs County Water District (ASCWD) is to reduce dangerous forest fuel loadings on 50 acres in the Alpine Meadows area and to offer free residential chipping services and defensible space inspections to 200 private properties. Alpine Meadows is a popular ski resort and summer recreational area that also holds over 650 private residences.

Alpine Meadows is located just northwest of Lake Tahoe, along California State Highway 89, just outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Alpine Meadows area contains about 770 private parcels, interspersed among a few open space parcels. Bear Creek runs through the community, creating a riparian area near many of the homes. Most homes are situated along the creek or other riparian areas. The elevation of Alpine Meadows ranges from 6185 feet at the mouth of the canyon to 6835 feet at the ski area lodge and the top of the inhabited area. The private lands are surrounded by United States Forest Service (USFS) owned lands. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District provides fire and emergency services to the approximately 1 square mile of Placer County area.

This project consists of two important elements. The first element of this project is the reduction of overgrown forest fuels on common properties owned by three homeowners associations and the water district that intertwine between private homes along the valley. These areas are identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed in 2005. The fuels reduction projects will consist of using hand crews but the disposal of the material will be completed using multiple methods including pile burning and chipping.

Each area's logistics will dictate how vegetation is removed. Some areas will include chipping, and some will include pile burning. Of these pile burn areas, one is within a riparian area and we plan to use this area as a demonstration project on how to conduct pile burning without negative impacts to the stream environment. We will be working with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to create a work plan for this area. The project area includes lands owned by multiple organizations, including the Alpine Springs County Water Company, Bear Creek Association, and Juniper Mountain Association, Alpine Meadows Estates Association.

The second element of this project is funding a community chipping program. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District has offered a chipping program to the residents of the district for many years. This program runs entirely on grant funding and has established itself as an integral part of private resident's efforts to create and maintain defensible space on their properties. 2007 has surpassed all other years as the most productive on record for this program. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District extends its chipping services to Alpine Meadows. This program seeks funding to support this effort in Alpine Meadows and will be used to complement the efforts on the common properties, open space, of the Associations and Water District. Our goal is that the combined efforts of the common area treatments, coupled with public education efforts of the Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council and the free chipping services, dumpsters and inspections for homeowners will serve to inspire more defensible space treatments on